

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 071859

61

ORIGIN OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 CCO-00 /012 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: A/OC/AF:RLLOCHMILLER:LLH

APPROVED BY: A/OC:WENAEHER

----- 024068

P 092200Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071859

FOR RCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABAA 3946 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ASMARA
CSAF COMIDEASTFOR USCINCEUR SECDEF DIA 09 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3946

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET US

SUBJ: ELF ATTACK ON STONEHOUSE

REF: ASMARA 236 (NOTAL) ADDIS 3918 NOTAL)

THERE FOLLOW SOME ADDITIONAL FACTS ON ATTACK, TOGETHER WITH
EMBASSY'S INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

1. FACTS: ROCKET APPARENTLY FIRED FROM TREELINE SOME 150 YARDS
OUTSIDE FENCE SURROUNDING STONEHOUSE. IT PROBABLY HANDHELD/
SHOULDER-FIRED VIEW ABSENCE BURN MARKS ON GROUND OR VEGETATION.
CARTRIDGE CASINGS FOUND AT TWO SITES, SUGGESTING PERSON WHO
FIRED ROCKET BEING ASSISTED BY OTHERS AND SMALL ARMS COVERING
FIRE PROVIDED. FIXED SITE COMMANDO POLICE POST IN VICINITY
REMAINED PASSIVE. ATTACK OCCURRED WHILE STONEHOUSE GUARD
CHANGING. THIS FORTUNATE AS SHRAPNEL WOULD OTHERWISE ALMOST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 071859

CERTAINLY HAVE CAUSED CASUALTIES. SHRAPNEL CUT WIRES FROM

ANTENNA AND ONE OF THEM IS DOWN. REMNANTS OF ORDNANCE BEING RECOVERED AND WILL BE FORWARDED.

2. PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS: ALL INDICATORS AVAILABLE TO US UP TO THIS POINT, NOT EXCLUDING ELF'S REPORTED WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE WITH IEG RELEASE OF TENNECO 5, HAD SUGGESTED THAT BOTH GENERAL COMMAND FACTION AND POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT FACTION OF INSURGENCY REMAINED COMMITTED TO POLICY OF NOT RPT NOT STRIKING AMERICAN TARGETS. THIS POLICY COULD HAVE CHANGED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONNECTION CONTINUING US PHASE-DOWN AND RELATED ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS. IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH MORE RADICAL GROUP, PERHAPS ONE INTRODUCED FROM PERIPHERAL AREAS IN WHICH TRAINING OF SUCH GROUPS KNOWN TO BE IN COURSE. IF POLICY HAS CHANGED, OR HYPOTHESIS OF MORE MILITANT GROUP IS CORRECT, FURTHER ATTACKS SEEM PROBABLE. IF NONE OCCUR, WE MAY BE FACED ONLY WITH PUBLICITY SPECTACULAR, IN WHICH CASE TIMING OF ATTACK BETWEEN PRESUMABLY KNOWN SHIFTS BECOMES INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING DESIRE TO AVOID SHEDDING AMERICAN BLOOD.

3. FOR PRESENT WE ARE COMPELLED ASSUME WORST AND TAKE SUCH COUNTER-MEASURES AS ARE WITHIN OUR REACH (BELOW). WORST CASE ASSUMPTION REQUIRES US CONSIDER POSSIBILITY THAT CONGEN, MAC AIRCRAFT, US SHIPS CALLING AT ERITREA PORTS, ETC., MIGHT RPT MIGHT ALL BECOME TARGETS.

4. TIGHTER SECURITY FOR USG PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS THUS BECOMES OUR MAJOR NEAR-TERM PREOCCUPATION UNTIL EVENTS PERMIT US DISCARD WORST CASE HYPOTHESIS.

5. ACTIONS: KAGNEW, CONGEN ASMARA AND ALL OTHER US PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS ARE BEING ADVISED TAKE ALL STEPS ENHANCE THEIR SECURITY. IN BOTH ASMARA AND ADDIS ABABA WE WILL URGE APPROPRIATE IEG AUTHORITIES DO UTMOST ENHANCE SECURITY OUR PEOPLE, FACILITIES AND TRANSITING VESSELS/AIRCRAFT.

6. COMMENT: KAGNEW'S VULNERABILITY WELL KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT. MEASURES WE CAN TAKE EVEN IF IEG COOPERATES FULLY ONLY ABLE LIMIT THIS VULNERABILITY TO DEGREE. IN ETHIOPIA'S CURRENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, MOREOVER, CAPACITY IEG TO BE HELPFUL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 071859

PROBABLY LESS THAN OPTIMUM. IT TOO EARLY AS YET OFFER EVALUATION, IN LIGHT THIS INCIDENT, OF IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ERITREA. WYMAN UNQUOTE RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, ROCKETS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE071859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: A/OC/AF:RLLOCHMILLER:LLH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-0837
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740454/aaaabxdm.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ASMARA 236 (NOTAL) ADDIS 3918 NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELF ATTACK ON STONEHOUSE
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ET, US, ELF
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005